

The Tribe plans to use bonds to finance the \$30 million initial one-third acquisition of the project. A Federal law requires that any encumbrance of Indian trust resources be approved by the Interior Secretary. Interior asserts its current authorities are sufficient to authorize that approval for the Warm Springs trust resources. However, bond counsel asserts current authority is not express enough to allow for an unqualified opinion needed to issue those bonds. The Tribe and PGE also believe more express authority will help secure their agreement.

H.R. 483 addresses this situation by providing express approval specifically for the Pelton agreement so the bonds can be issued and the agreement is more secure. At the same time, it provides that this single case instance of approval is not to diminish Interior's existing authority to approve similar agreements.

The bill also authorizes Warm Springs trust land leases of up to 99 years at the Secretary's discretion.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House can unanimously support this piece of legislation. It is cosponsored by the entire Oregon delegation, and it will provide a needed economic development for the Warm Springs Tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will permit the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon to enter into various leases concerning their trust lands for up to 99 years.

Over the years, and at the specific request of the affected Indian tribe, we have passed numerous similar bills in order to give Indian tribes more flexibility to develop trust lands for the benefit of their members. What is different about this bill, however, is that we are also giving Congressional approval to a settlement and business agreement entered into among the Tribe, the Department of the Interior, and the Portland General Electric Company. The agreement benefits all parties and will help bring needed economic development to the reservation.

Similar agreements between Indian tribes and private companies occur upon the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. While I support the passage of this bill today, it is important to stress that in doing so we are not questioning the Secretary's authority over such matters nor the validity of agreements bearing her approval.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 483.

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Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to

the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague from eastern Oregon in support of this legislation, and I am pleased to cosponsor it along with the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, we have a special obligation as Members of this assembly to be sensitive to the needs of Native Americans. Sadly, the history of the United States brings no great credit to the Government or this body, and there have been many lost opportunities. I rise in support of H.R. 483 because it is one way to seize an opportunity and do the right thing.

H.R. 483 gives the Warm Springs Tribe the same control over their sovereign lands that other governments already enjoy. This act will allow the Warm Springs Tribal Government to lease its own land in the same manner that the Cherokee Nation and State and local jurisdictions have for years.

Certainly the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon have shown that they have earned this right. They are located on the largest land holding in our State. They have a long history of excellent official relationships with State and Federal authorities in Oregon. They operate their own tribal courts, health system, educational facilities, and law enforcement agencies. They have been leaders in economic development initiatives of which this provision would enable another chapter to move forward.

I have been pleased to work with the tribe in times past. I think it is high time for us to allow the tribe to express similar leadership that they have over their own land. The second provision approves the agreement by the tribes with General Electric to regulate projects on its land. As has been pointed out, this has been a long time in the making. It was approved a year and a half ago, and its time for Congress to add its seal of approval. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for passage of H.R. 483.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for his kind comments and his generous support of this legislation and express my appreciation to the tribes and to Jefferson County and to Portland General Electric for their continuous work as we have wordsmithed this bill, probably more than any other bill I have been around, to make it conform to the needs of all of the parties involved. They have been quite patient and helpful in this process. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 483, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2590, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider the conference report to accompany H.R. 2590; that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived; and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

#### CHILOQUIN DAM FISH PASSAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY ACT OF 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2585) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the feasibility of providing adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish at the Chiloquin Dam on the Sprague River, Oregon.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2585

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chiloquin Dam Fish Passage Feasibility Study Act of 2001".

#### SEC. 2. CHILOQUIN DAM FISH PASSAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall, in collaboration with all interested parties, including the Modoc Point Irrigation District, the Klamath Tribes, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, conduct a study of the feasibility of providing adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish at the Chiloquin Dam on the Sprague River, Oregon.

(b) SUBJECTS.—The study shall include—

- (1) review of all alternatives for providing such passage, including the removal of the dam;
- (2) determination of the most appropriate alternative;
- (3) development of recommendations for implementing such alternative; and
- (4) examination of mitigation needed for upstream and downstream water users, and